

FACTS AND REPORTS

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K1: Fin.Times (Br), 90 05 18

S African town fears clashes between right wing and blacks

PRETORIA rushed police and army reinforcements to the gold mining town of Welkom yesterday, fearing clashes between right-wing whites seeking vengeance after black miners killed two men on Wednesday evening.

The two men were stoned and stabbed to death as mine security forces tried to break up a demonstration by workers at the President Steyn mine outside Welkom. Twelve black mineworkers and four other white men were injured in the incident.

The long-feared clash between the extreme right and blacks is likely to put pressure on the Government to act swiftly against the growth of armed extremist right-wing movements such as the Afrikaner Weerstand Beweging (AWB - Afrikaner Resistance Movement). The Government has tried to avoid a confrontation with such groups so far.

The town was calm but tense yesterday. The Conservative Party advised white miners not to go underground until their safety was guaranteed while Anglo American, which owns the mine, and the National Union of Mineworkers appealed for calm and expressed their regret at the deaths.

A local right wing newspaper, The Transvaler, declared on its front page that the town stood "on the brink of a race war."

On Wednesday night about 100 right-wing whites, many of them armed and wearing the khaki colours of the neo-Fascist AWB - demonstrated outside Welkom police station on Wednesday yelling "We want blood."

Welkom, about 300 km south of Johannesburg, has been gripped by racial tension since white vigilantes took to the streets in March to contain what they described as a rising spiral of crime.

Black community leaders, who claim the vigilantes have killed two innocent black people, retaliated by boycotting white businesses. Businessmen in turn have threatened to stop wholesalers serving black-owned shops to starve out the residents of Thabong, Welkom's black township.

Although the numbers concerned are not large, there is a

worry that this sort of incident could spill over into a full-scale conflagration.

Fear is the key element. White miners claim to fear for their safety when they go underground, and blacks, in turn, fear the menacing right-wing vigilante groups which have sprung up recently.

Wednesday's trouble started with a demonstration by about 50 black miners against alleged assaults by white miners on workers wearing the colours of the African National Congress (ANC).

According to a police statement, the demonstrators refused to disperse when asked, instead attacking the mine security officials.

They retaliated with rubber bullets and 9-millimetre pistols. One of the officials was killed during the fighting. Another came upon the fighting in his car and was killed while still behind the wheel.

The deaths follow a serious deterioration in race relations in the town over the past few months. White military muscle has been met with black consumer power - blacks are causing considerable pain to local businesses by boycotting their stores.

A meeting of about 3,000 township residents on Wednesday evening was unanimous that the boycott should continue until the activities of the vigilante groups have been curbed.

Mr Blikkies Blignaut, regional secretary of the (AWB), said that, if they did not receive immediate satisfaction on the question of white miners' safety, they would not hesitate to use violence to defend their own people.

With the arrival of police and army reinforcements, however, their room for manoeuvre will be limited. Right-wing groups were demanding a curfew, although local police officers said they did not have the power to enforce one.

Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, has said that the police will detain and charge any party they believe guilty of intimidation.

K2: Guardian (Br), 90 05 24 (abr)

South Africa close to declaring amnesty

Pretoria and ANC to agree pact on political prisoners

THE South African government and its long-standing foe, the African National Congress, have moved closer to agreement on a general amnesty that would free political activists jailed for acts of terror.

The anticipated agreement, reported in South Africa's biggest daily, The Star, would also guarantee immunity from prosecution to exiled ANC guerrillas as well as assassins from "anti-terrorist units" or "death squads" in the police and the defence force.

The scene has been set for the agreement by a joint government-ANC working committee, which has sought a mutually acceptable definition of a political prisoner and aimed to clear the way for the speedy and secure return of exiled members of the ANC.

Although no details have been released of the joint committee report, participants appear confident that the problems have largely been resolved.

As the ANC intelligence chief, Jacob Zuma, has remarked: "The issues are behind us."

The report still has to be considered by the ANC and the government.

It is expected, however, that it will be adopted.

Some observers believe it was not coincidental that the ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, stopped over for talks with President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe on his way back to South Africa after his African tour. It is thought that he discussed the possible freeing of seven South African agents in Zimbabwe, or a reprieve for those under sentence of death.

Mr Mandela's firm deflection of questions on the matter has fuelled rumours of deals over prisoners. So, too, has President F. W. de Klerk's announcement that Mrs Ruth Gerhardt, convicted of treason in 1983, will be freed soon.

Mr De Klerk's announcement was made in Berne, Switzerland, after his talks with the Swiss government. Mrs Gerhardt is a Swiss national and her son is living with his grandparents there. Too much cannot, therefore, be read into her imminent release.

But it is consistent with the present mood of trying to wipe the slate clean and clear the way for substantive negotiations on a new constitution for all South Africans.

K3: Independent (Br), 90 05 24 (abr)

Zaire massacre

The report said there was unrest at the university between 10 and 12 May, involving demonstrations against the President, Mobutu Sese Seko, and attacks on students alleged to be police informers. Belgium sent its ambassador in Zaire to Lubumbashi on Monday to investigate. Citing Belgian and Zairean witnesses, the dailies *Le Soir* and *La Libre Belgique* yesterday repeated claims that soldiers of Mr Mobutu's guard used knives and bayonets to put down student unrest.

"There is no longer any doubt that the depths of horror were plumbed that night," said *La Libre Belgique*. The "red berets" were sent to Lubumbashi, Zaire's second university, after students killed three people they suspected of being police informers and held demonstrations in the town, the paper reported.

On the night of 11 May, the soldiers told local police to leave and then cut the power supply, plunging the campus into darkness. They killed about 50 students, bayoneting some and cutting the throats of others, and burned their bodies in mass graves, *La Libre Belgique* said. *Le Soir* said it had received several letters confirming the massacre.

K4: Fin.Times (Br), 90 05 26

Zaire loan suspended

Belgium suspended a \$105m (£62m) loan to its former colony Zaire pending an independent inquiry into the deaths of as many as 100 students in Lubumbashi last Saturday.

K55: Southscan (Br), 90 05 11

Angolan government force abandons strategic town

The Angolan rebel movement Unita claimed on Tuesday it had pushed back government troops near the strategic town of Mavinga in the south-east, killing 139 soldiers and capturing about 100 tanks and other military vehicles.

If substantiated this would represent a major counter-thrust against the government as talks near on a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement in the 15-year-old war.

The Angolan government, however, said on Wednesday that though it had pulled back it was not under attack.

Meanwhile, according to Portuguese reports, the Angolan government has transferred its chief of armed forces staff away from the Mavinga front to face a new threat from Unita in the north.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa said Lieut-Gen. Antonio Franca Ndalú had been appointed to command a new Cuanza-Bengo front.

The area lies between Luanda and Uige province, north-east of the capital, where Unita guerrillas have been on the offensive in the past few weeks (*SouthScan* v5/17 p120).

Luanda observers believe the intensity of the Unita attack in the north has forced the government to redeploy its forces, and to move its most trusted commander.

Ndalú was believed this week to be abroad on a recuperative visit before taking charge of the new northern front.

K57: Weekly Mail (SA), 90 05 18 (fragm)

The battle for Mavinga, however, has clearly taken a heavy toll on Unita and the government, and significant compromises have been made from both sides' negotiating positions in the last few months.

The biggest concessions to date have come from President Eduardo dos Santos, who has dropped his earlier insistence that Savimbi go into temporary exile for a two year cooling-off period after a ceasefire, and

K59: Radio Report

Dos Santos dismisses Transport Minister

(Text) Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola, today relieved Carlos Fernandes of the post of Minister of Transport and Communications and Eduardo Paulo Bonga of the post of Secretary of State for Town Planning, Housing and Water, for sluggishness and the non-implementation of legal directives. To replace the two men, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos appointed Col Antonio Paulo Kassoma to the post of Minister of Transport and Communications and Vitoriano Ferreira Nicolao to the post of Secretary of State for Town Planning, Housing and Water. Antonio Paulo Kassoma has thus ceased to be Deputy Minister of Defence for Armaments and Military Strategy, while Vitoriano Ferreira Nicolao has also ceased to be Luanda province deputy commissioner for the economic and productive sector. (*Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1900 gmt 5 May 90*)

K60: Radio Report

Radio Nacional de Angola (Luanda) reported that on the 7th Dos Santos had appointed Lt-Gen Antonio dos Santos Franca Ndalú as commander of the Cuanza-Bengo "political and military front" and Comrade Lopo do Nascimento as commander of the southern front.

The government has been under US pressure for some time to move back from the positions it has occupied in its offensive on Unita's south-east stronghold.

Unita earlier declared that it would not agree to a ceasefire before government forces returned to positions held around Cuito Cuanavale. Later it changed its stance and said it was prepared for a ceasefire without the conditions.

In their statement issued in Lisbon Unita said they stormed government positions on Monday morning, sending the troops fleeing in disarray towards their base at Cuito Cuanavale. Angola's Lisbon embassy dismissed the report on Tuesday, saying the armed forces had consolidated their positions.

In Kinshasa, Zaire, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi was reported as saying he believed a settlement to the 15-year-long Angolan conflict was at hand and said he wanted Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko to continue as mediator. "Peace is coming soon," he told reporters after meeting Mobutu on Monday, according to Zairean radio. Unita has held fast to Mobutu's "mediator" role in the negotiations, although most see that role as irrelevant now that direct talks are under way.

"There will be news before the end of the year. Things are changing everywhere - and the Americans want to end this war," Savimbi said.

K56: Fin.Times (Br), 90 05 16 (abr)

Angolan rebels claim victory

By Julian Borger
in Mavinga

Fierce fighting has broken out around Mavinga in the south-east of Angola where Unita rebels are claiming to have scored a big victory only three weeks after direct peace talks opened between the Angolan government and the rebel movement.

Journalists were taken by Unita over the weekend to see the scene of a battle seven miles north-west of Mavinga, a rebel stronghold since 1981. Large areas of forest had been burnt to the ground and the charred wrecks of a Soviet-built T55 tank, six BMP-1 armoured cars, and large numbers of lorries were scattered across the area.

According to Unita officers, the battle took place last Sunday and Monday, and was decisive in ending a government offensive launched last December on Mavinga.

Government spokesmen in Luanda have acknowledged that they have withdrawn their forces from the Mavinga area, but said it was a goodwill gesture to help the progress of peace negotiations.

K58: Marchés Trop.(Fr). 90 05 18

● **AIDE: appel de l'Organisation des Nations unies.**—Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU a lancé un appel urgent pour un premier envoi de 40 000 tonnes de vivres en faveur de 800 000 personnes affectées par la quatrième sécheresse consécutive en Angola, a-t-on appris le 10 mai, de sources officielles aux Nations unies.

Dans cet appel en son nom et en son absence, M. Javier Perez de Cuellar, actuellement en Europe, demande également l'envoi de matériel médical, de 2 700 tonnes de graines pour remplacer celles qui ont été consommées, des équipements de forages de puits d'eau, du petit outillage pour l'agriculture, huit camions de transports de vingt tonnes et huit de six tonnes.

Il souhaite en outre réunir 500.000 dollars pour mettre en place un pont aérien de 500 tonnes de vivres vers des régions difficiles d'accès en raison de la guerre civile. L'évaluation de ces besoins a été faite par un groupe d'experts composé de représentants du gouvernement angolais, de l'ONU, et d'organisations non gouvernementales.

● **AUTRICHE: prêts de 12 millions de dollars.**—Deux banques autrichiennes ont accordé à l'Angola des prêts bancaires d'un total de 12 millions de dollars destinés à l'acquisition de biens de consommation et d'équipements, a indiqué le 27 avril le ministère angolais du Commerce et de l'industrie.

La banque RZB a accordé un crédit de 3 millions de dollars et la Giro-Bank un deuxième prêt de 9 millions de dollars. Les accords ont été signés à Vienne par le ministre angolais du Commerce et de l'industrie, M. Dumilde Rangel, qui a visité l'Autriche du 21 au 26 avril.

UNITA sabotages Bengo province pylons

(Text) Quoting a source in the team that is repairing the power lines to Luanda, Angop reported in Luanda today that UNITA destroyed another nine power pylons in Bengo province on 13th May. The sabotage was carried out 12 km from the town of Zenza do Itombe. (*Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1900 gmt 15 May 90*)

K61: Radio Report